

TechPort: Sharing NASA's Technology Knowledge

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



What is TechPort (Beta)?

The Technology Portfolio System, TechPort, is NASA's first comprehensive resource for locating information about NASA-funded technology development activities. This system enables the public to explore NASA's technology portfolio and learn about technology Programs and Projects, as NASA works to mature technologies for aeronautics, space exploration, and scientific discovery missions.

NASA is offering the public the opportunity to give this beta system a trial run and then provide feedback. After six months, NASA will collect ideas on how TechPort can better serve the users' needs. Users' input will enhance the system design and type of information provided in future versions.

Data and Access

As of February 2015, TechPort contained information on more than 1,200 active technology development Programs and Projects, and thousands of historical records. Although the goal is to have a complete set of active Programs and Projects, a number of NASA Programs are still entering their information. For example, the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate, the International Space Station Program, the Commercial Crew Cargo Program, and the Science Mission Directorate, are all still working to record their technology development Projects in the system.

Even though TechPort has not been populated fully, there are thousands of Projects to explore. The earliest records are from Small Business Innovative Research Projects funded in 2001. TechPort contains many of NASA's current technology development activities.

As a repository for technology development, TechPort does not include basic research but does include many scientific instruments and sensors that support research. Additionally, TechPort is a dynamic system which means that Programs and Projects are still adding to TechPort or updating current records.

To access TechPort, go to <http://techport.nasa.gov>



TechPort Home Screen

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Why Was TechPort Developed?

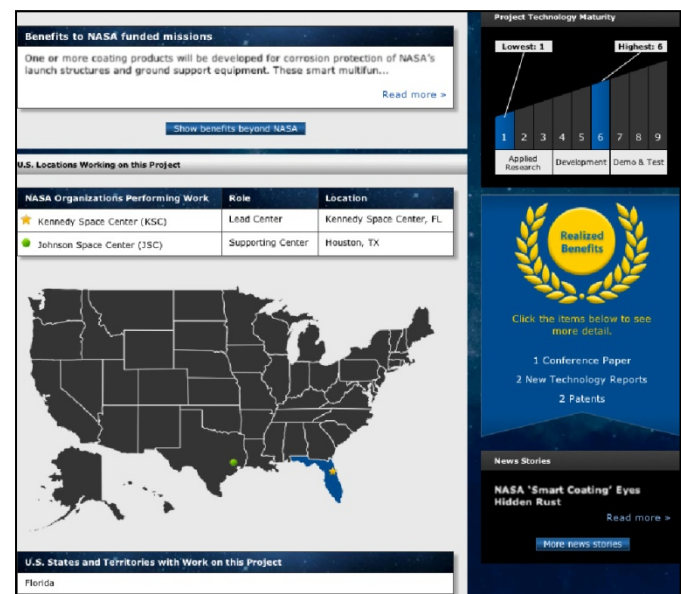
NASA embraces the development and advancement of technology to support U.S. industries, enhance academic research, spur innovation, and promote the building and sharing of knowledge. NASA believes sharing information about NASA's current technology development activities will increase awareness of and appreciation for our Nation's investment, and enable users to find unique ways to employ NASA's data in a variety of solutions.

TechPort was developed to serve two distinct purposes:

- make information about NASA's technology development activities easy to find, accessible, and usable; and
- to support NASA's technology portfolio analysis, strategic planning, and technology management activities.

Benefits

Through its collaboration activities, NASA expands the frontiers of knowledge and capabilities in aeronautics, science, and space, as well as creating opportunities for U.S. industry and academia. By making technology development information easy to find, accessible, and usable, NASA will fuel entrepreneurship, innovation, and scientific discovery. Industry and academia will have insight into the technology portfolio, and will be able to use this information to identify possible areas of technology development collaboration, forecast when technologies may be released for public use and commercialization, and identify areas of aeronautics and aerospace technology development need. Information about NASA's technology development activities is a valuable national resource and a strategic asset that will expand the knowledge base, spur innovation in U.S. industry and help grow American businesses.



TechPort Project – Benefits, States with Work, and Technology Maturity

For NASA, TechPort enables comprehensive technology portfolio strategy development, investment prioritization, and decision-making by enabling users to compare existing NASA investments against NASA's Technology Roadmap and prioritization. Users can determine what work is needed, what is funded, and where gaps exist requiring additional technology development. The integrated data set and automated report generation features ensure greater consistency of data used for all levels of analytical study, and save time in data validation, analysis, and report development.

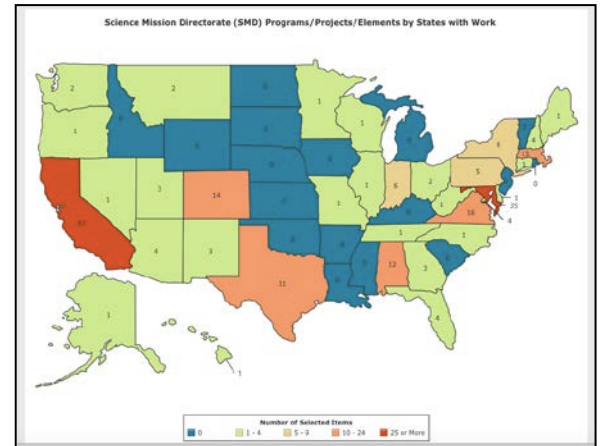
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Uses

The general public can use TechPort to find technology Programs and Projects of interest and discover how these have led to breakthroughs and discoveries. TechPort is equipped with features that allow users to efficiently search technology Programs and Projects, conduct analysis, identify technology gaps, and generate comprehensive technology reports. It enables researchers, scientists, industry, and other government agencies to obtain a brief description, and information about the management team, technology readiness level, anticipated benefits, contributing partners, and locations where work is performed. Realized benefits, social media links, and other information is available for larger and more advanced technology development activities. This comprehensive data coupled with NASA's Technology Roadmap and NASA's Strategic Technology Investment Plan provides academia and industry a look into future technology Programs and Projects giving insight into technology needs, potential gaps (research and development opportunities), and potential development partners.



TechPort Report – States with Work

Business leaders could use TechPort to:

- Leverage the information on NASA's portfolio of technology development to forecast technologies that might be available for use in the future and build their business around them.
- Search for ideas to generate new business lines or start-ups for companies, for example, if a company is trying to develop better corrosion protection, then, with TechPort, it can investigate if NASA is developing technologies that would help innovate its product in the future.
- Compare NASA's Strategic Technology Investment Plan against NASA's current investments, to identify if there are gaps in a technology area the company could fill.
- Find states where technology development is focused to locate job opportunities or companies with which to partner.

Academic users could use TechPort to:

- Inform and add direction to PhD research by discovering historical and current Projects related to research areas of interest.
- Search for universities to see which colleagues are already working with NASA to coordinate efforts.
- Find points of contact for research collaboration.

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Other government agencies could use TechPort to:

- Make investment decisions for partnering with NASA or adapting NASA technology when it becomes available.
- Identify colleagues within a specific technology area to develop a community of practice for a new technology.
- Identify what companies are developing technologies for NASA with the thought of evaluating them for potential future work.
- Identify technology development efforts that overlap or complement what their agency is doing.

How do I Engage NASA and Get More Information on Partnerships?

NASA has various partnership agreements in a broad spectrum of areas to advance NASA mission and Program objectives. Examples of partnership agreements include Space Act Agreements, Commercial Space Launch Act Agreements, and Cooperative Research and Development Agreements, among others.

If you are interested in pursuing potential partnership opportunities in a specific technical or Program area identified in the TechPort system, please contact the NASA point of contact identified on the respective Program or Project page. If you are interested in pursuing a partnership with a particular NASA Center or component facility, please use the respective Center contact information provided on the "Partnership" tip sheet found on the bottom of the TechPort home page.

How do I Engage NASA and Get More Information?

To access TechPort, go to <http://techport.nasa.gov>. At the bottom of the page select "Contact NASA" for general questions, or "Contact TechPort" for specific system operation information. Media should contact NASA Public Affairs, or go to <http://www.nasa.gov/content/submit-a-question-for-nasa/>



Technology Project Data Sheet